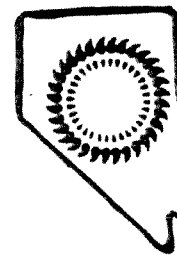


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



Office of the
State Climatologist

Offices: 226 and 322
Mackay Science
Hall
(702) 784-1723

John W. James
State Climatologist
Mackay Science Hall
University of Nevada-Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557

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SYNOPSIS

August 1997 will be remembered as a beautiful but dry month in most of the North, but wet and stormy in much of the South. Some samples of the contrast are: 1) Many locations in the Northern half of Nevada have had less than one tenth of an inch of rain since mid-June, and August was completely dry at some sites; 2) In the biggest atmospheric outburst since July 1984 several locations in Vegas Valley received over 1" of rain in just a few minutes early in the month, with 2 - 3 inches or more in the Henderson - Boulder City Area. Golf ball size hail, unusual for Nevada, caused some damage to plants and vehicles. Wind gusts up to 80 mph accompanied some of the thunderstorms, blowing over power poles and trees. Flood water covered several streets and even US 395 through Henderson. One person was drowned and several rescued.

At the Boulder City Golf Course alone 40 mature trees were toppled. Damage in the millions of dollars occurred, with a disaster area being declared in order to assist home and business owners as well as municipalities. At the end of August Boulder City was hit again with short-term intense rainfall, hail and flooding, but not as severe as earlier in the month.

With one month to go in the 1996-97 Water Year conditions range from over 1 & 1/4 times normal in portions of Western Nevada to a little below normal in parts of the South and East. The Colorado River above Lake Mead is slightly above normal.

August temperatures were a little above normal in the South, but somewhat below in the North, for the third consecutive month. Statewide extremes ranged from 30° to 115°.

Some of the wetter locations during August were Spring Valley State Park with a whopping 3.90", Callville Bay with 1.96", Pioche 1.44", Boies Ranch 1.27", San Jacinto 1.25", and Lake Valley 1.24".

Evaporation was a little above normal, with for example 10.22" at Reno, 9.15" at Shoshone and 6.76" at Minden.

NOTE: Several readers of this publication have asked for more detail on Reno's hottest day, July 20, 1931, when the mercury bubbled up to 106° at the US Weather Bureau Office atop the four story 1.0.0.F Building at the corner of East 2nd and North Center Streets. On that day the mercury stayed at 100° or above from 11:30 - 3:30 PM, topping out at 106° at 2 PM. In fact, the day before had 100° and for an hour longer (11:30 - 4:30), but "only" read 105° for the maximum. At least the relative humidity fell to 10% both days, somewhat relieving the heat.

In addition to the 106° in July 1931, "still the all-time Reno high", there was a record 6 consecutive days above 100 - from July 18th - 23rd, and a months total of 8 days (July 26 and 27 also reached 100°) of maximum temperatures at 100° or above.

Whew!!

Next Month - Water Year 1996-97 Summary.

John W. James
State Climatologist

